

Please amend the claims as follows:

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1. (Twice Amended) A method of immunologically measuring the human medullasin content in blood comprising the following steps (a) and (b):

(a) breaking up the leukocytes in a blood sample by contacting said blood sample with the following aqueous liquids (i) or (ii) or an aqueous liquid mixture of (i) and (ii)

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(i) an aqueous liquid having an osmotic pressure of 250mOsm/kg•H₂O or less or an aqueous liquid having an osmotic pressure of 310mOsm/kg•H₂O or more;

(ii) an aqueous liquid comprising a hemolysate; and

(b) immunologically determining content of human medullasin in said blood sample by a method comprising contacting the blood sample containing said human medullasin released from the leukocytes broken up in said step (a) with an anti-human medullasin monoclonal antibody immobilized to an insoluble carrier in the presence of a labeled anti-human medullasin monoclonal antibody to form a sandwich complex and to capture the human medullasin on a labeled immuno complex by an antigen-

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antibody reaction, and then determining the amount of activity of the label material in said complex.

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6. (Amended) The method of immunologically measuring the human medullasin content in blood according to claim 5, wherein said aqueous liquid (ii) is an aqueous solution of at least one type of hemolysate selected from the group consisting of higher fatty acid salts, alkylaryl sulphonates, alkyl sulphonates, alkyl sulphate ester salts, alkyl pyridinium salts, polyoxyethylene alkylphenyl ethers, polyoxyethylenealkylethers, polyoxyethylene sorbitan fatty acid esters and alkyl betaines.

B³
can be polyclonal
A.
8. (Twice Amended) The method of immunologically measuring the human medullasin content in blood according to claim 1 wherein said step (b) [of immunologically determining the content of human medullasin in said blood sample] comprises sandwiching said human medullasin in said blood sample between an anti-human medullasin antibody immobilized to an insoluble carrier and a labeled anti-human medullasin antibody to form a complex by an antigen-antibody reaction, and determining the amount of label in said complex.